WHEREAS, the success and well-being of our young people depend on the availability of quality educational and skill development opportunities; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina teens often lack the skills and knowledge necessary to make difficult decisions regarding the use of alcohol and other drugs, sexual activity, and crime; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, poor decisions at an early age can have severe negative implications for their future lives as happy and contributing members of society; and

WHEREAS, sponsored by the West Metro Youth Leadership Institute, the annual Teens in Focus Conference brings together teens, parents, schools, and community leaders to help our young people acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to make responsible, informed decisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 15, 2003, as

TEENS IN FOCUS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the importance of educating our teens in responsible, informed decision-making.